



Department of Defense DIRECTIVE

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Certified Current as of November 21, 2003

ASD(FM&P)

SUBJECT: Service by Members of the Armed Forces on State and Local Juries

References: (a) Section 982 of title 10, United States Code

1. PURPOSE

This Directive implements reference (a) to establish uniform DoD policies for jury service by members of the Armed Forces on active duty.

2. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to active duty members of the Armed Forces.

3. DEFINITIONS

3.1. Armed Forces. The Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard, when it is operating as a Service in the Navy.

3.2. State. Includes the 50 United States, U.S. Territories, District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

3.3. Active Duty. Full-time duty in the active military service of the United States. Includes full-time training duty, annual training duty, active duty for training, and attendance, while in the active military service, at a school designated as a Service school by law or by the Secretary of the Military Department concerned.

3.4. Operating Forces. Those forces whose primary missions are to participate in combat and the integral supporting elements thereof.

4. POLICY

It is DoD policy to permit members of the Armed Forces maximally to fulfill their civic responsibilities consistent with their military duties. For Service members stationed in the United States, serving on a State or local jury is one such civic obligation. Service members are exempt from jury duty, when it unreasonably would interfere with performance of their military duties or adversely affect the readiness of a unit, command, or activity.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

The Secretaries of the Military Departments, or designees, in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned, shall determine whether Service members shall be exempt from jury duty. This authority may be delegated no lower than to commanders authorized to convene special courts-martial.

6. PROCEDURES

The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall publish procedures that provide the following:

6.1. When a Service member on active duty is summoned to perform State or local jury duty, the Secretary concerned, or the official to whom such authority has been delegated, shall decide if such jury duty would:

6.1.1. Interfere unreasonably with the performance of the Service members military duties.

6.1.2. Affect adversely the readiness of the unit, command, or activity to which the member is assigned.

6.2. If such jury service would interfere with the Service member's military duties or adversely affect readiness, the Service member shall be exempted from jury duty. The decision of the Secretary concerned, or the official to whom such authority has been delegated, shall be conclusive.

6.3. All general and flag officers, commanders and commanding officers, officers-in-charge, and all personnel assigned to the operating forces, in a training status, or stationed outside the United States are exempt from serving on a State or local jury. Such jury service necessarily would interfere with the performance of military duties by these members and adversely affect the readiness of the unit, command, or activity to which they are assigned.

6.4. Service members who serve on State or local juries shall not be charged leave or lose any pay or entitlements during the period of service. All fees accrued to members for jury service are payable to the U.S. Treasury. Members are entitled to any reimbursement from the State or local jury authority for expenses incurred in the performance of jury duty, such as for transportation costs or parking fees.

6.5. Written notice of each exemption determination shall be provided to the responsible State or local official who summoned an exempt member for jury duty.

7. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Directive is effective immediately. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall forward one copy of implementing documents to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Force Management and Personnel) within 120 days.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William H. Taft, IV". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "W" and "T".

William H. Taft, IV
Deputy Secretary of Defense